AP Government: Public Opinion WebQuest

Name: (type in)

Public opinion is important to American politics and society. Visit the websites below and answer the questions that follow. Type directly into this form and print to hand it at the end of the period.

1. Search the web and find 3 different definitions for “public opinion.” Write the definitions and their sources (include name of website and link).
2. On questions: go to <http://www.aapor.org/Question_Wording1/3708.htm> and read about question wording. Briefly define the types of questions. After reading, summarize how questions can alter poll results.
3. How can you know if a poll is trustworthy? Read the information at <http://www.aapor.org/Questions_to_Ask_When_Writing_About_Polls2/3808.htm> and summarize your findings.
4. Got to <http://www.pollingreport.com/>. Spend some time clicking around to get a general sense of how the site works. When you are ready, select 2 items from “in the news” and two items from “issues.” Describe the trends/opinions you find in each of the areas.

“In the News” Section

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Issue | Trend |
|  |  |
|  |  |

“Issues” Section

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Issue | Trend |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. Go to [www.gallup.com](http://www.gallup.com). See if you can find information relating to the same items you found in #4. How does Gallup compare to what you already studied?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Issue | Trend |
|  |  |
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We will present these trends at the end of the period!